



Opportunity Bastrop County 2017 Review

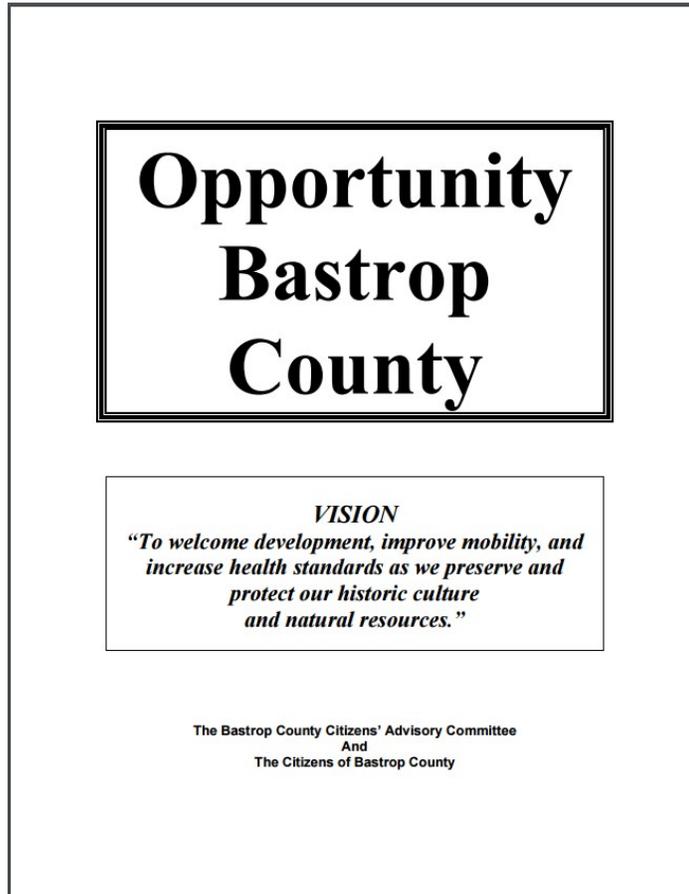
Bastrop County Strategic Plan Progress Report



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N B This document is intended to be interactive – many of the images cross referencing other plans have hyperlinks to those documents.



Executive Summary

In 2007, the Bastrop County Commissioners adopted Opportunity Bastrop County - a Strategic Planning document carried out in partnership with the LCRA in consultation with the local community. The document sets priorities in the areas of: Environmental Growth and Management; Transportation Enhancement; Economic Development and Educational Opportunities; Public Safety and Emergency Services; and Health Care Services.

This document gives a brief overview of the nature of growth within the County since the plan was adopted, and subsequently goes on to review reviews the extent to which each of the objectives of the plan have been obtained ten years on.

In the **Environmental Growth and Management** section, 22 tactics are identified, which fall under the objectives of preserving the agricultural and natural aspects of Bastrop County, and ensuring a sufficient quality of clean water for the County's future. Out of these 22 tactics, 10 were identified as completed or ongoing, 10 as only partially complete, and 2 as incomplete. Key achievements include the land stewardship training and support provided by AgriLife Extension and third part programs provided by Austin Community College and Texas Center for Local Food. Potential areas for further consideration included supporting the formal designation of the Colorado River Alluvium as a minor aquifer, and the adoption of a County Parks and Open Space Plan.

In the **Transportation Enhancement** section, 7 key tactics were identified, which fall under the objectives of developing an integrated county wide road system to provide safe and efficient travel, and developing a county transit system to provide mobility to people in communities and rural areas of the County. Of these 3 were considered to be complete or ongoing, 4 to be partially completed, and zero to have been incomplete. Key achievements include participation in regional transportation efforts, particularly CAMPO and the adoption of a County Wide Transportation Plan. Potential areas for further consideration include transit planning in partnership with CARTS and Cap Metro, and identification of need based cyclist and pedestrian projects.

In the **Economic Development and Educational Opportunities** section, 7 key tactics were identified, with the overall objectives of the development of an economic development policy; a policy advancing tourism; supporting the School District, and encouraging higher learning opportunities. 4 of these were considered to be complete/ ongoing, 2 as partially completed, and 1 as incomplete. By far the key achievement in this section was the establishment of a Department of Economic Development and

Tourism in the County with 2 staff members who are responsible for leveraging the County's assets to bring visitors and development to the cities and the unincorporated area. The establishment of the ACC Campus at Elgin was also a significant achievement. Soliciting the establishment of a vocational or technical school into the County was identified as an area for further consideration.

In the **Public Safety and Emergency Services** section, 12 tactics were identified, grouped under the headings of addressing citizens' public safety issues, resource planning, developing alliances, recruiting and retaining public safety personnel, and identifying standards of care. Of these, 6 were considered to be completed/ ongoing, 5 as partially completed and 2 as incomplete. Significant achievements include the increased use of social media and technology to engage with citizens and the development of the Office of Emergency Management Department (OEM), which was in its infancy at the time the original plan was drafted in 2007 and has the majority of the identified tactics within its remit. The identification of care standards, and retention of public safety staff were identified as areas for further consideration.

In the **Health Care Services** section, 9 distinct tactics were identified, with the overall objectives of – providing primary health care services for uninsured and underinsured residents, expanding mental health, dental and eye care in the county, and determining the overall health service needs of county residents. Of these, 8 were considered to be completed, and 1 incomplete. Key achievements included the provision of new healthcare facilities available to low income clients, including the Lone Star Circle of Care Bastrop Community Health Center, and the Community Health Needs Assessment which was carried out by Seton in partnership with the County. Areas for further consideration include improved access to care, including establishing the feasibility of Mobile Primary Care Clinics in partnership with local health providers.

It is proposed to display this report on the Long Range Planning Website for a period of four weeks to allow members of the public and interested parties to send in comments, before coming back to the Court.

Updating the Opportunity Bastrop Plan would be a valuable consultation exercise and a way of identifying strengths and opportunities in the unincorporated area, however to date no specific funding sources have been sourced. Based on discussions with the consultant who originally led the plan, an update is likely to cost approximately \$38,000 assuming the original scope with the addition of a chapter on Housing.

1. Introduction and Background

Opportunity Bastrop County is a strategic planning document which was produced by the Bastrop County Citizen’s Advisory Committee with assistance from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in 2007.

The document provides a comprehensive overview of identified services, needs and opportunities of the citizens of Bastrop County, in particular those living outside the incorporated cities of Elgin, Bastrop and Smithville. At the time, Opportunity Bastrop was presented as a Master Plan and implementation guide outlining the community’s vision for the subsequent 5, 10 and 20 years, and public consultation was key in the drafting of the document.

Opportunity Bastrop County is split into the following five themes:

- Environmental Growth and Management
- Transportation Enhancement
- Economic Development and Educational Opportunities
- Public Safety and Emergency Services
- Health Care Services

There is one overarching goal identified for each theme – these are set out in the table below.

Theme	Goal
Environmental Quality and Growth Management	Retain and enhance the rural character of Bastrop County while encouraging growth that is in balance with human and environmental needs today and in the future
Transportation Enhancement	Develop a county-wide transportation system that provides safe and efficient movement of people and goods by utilizing a comprehensive network of streets and public transportation systems that are scaleable and sustainable as the population grows.
Economic Development and Educational Opportunities	Coordinate and develop a regional approach to economic development by working with the cities’

	economic development efforts
Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ensure that the public safety needs of the community are met through the deployment of nationally recognized standards of care or operation while maintaining fiscal accountability and responsibility.
Health Care Services	Expanded primary health care and mental health services for low income, elderly, and mobility impaired residents.

PAGE 2A ★ The Bastrop Advertiser SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007

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Continued from Page 1A

"Five years ago we had a population sign that read, 5,000, and now we more than 5,000 mailing addresses in the 78621 (Elgin) zip code," Nilsson said. Bill Webster, who owns WW Treneware Co. on Main Street, agreed the bond is needed, however he also had some suggestions.

"The district really needs the expansion because the high school is already getting overgrown," Webster said. "And the middle school has needed something for a long time." Proposition 1 calls for the new middle school to have a capacity of 1,100 students, two gyms and a practice football field and ULL track.

(District-wide enrollment is expected to increase about six to 9 percent annually for the next five years, an increase of 215 to 325 students per year, according to the Population and Survey Analysts of Texas A&M University. Current enrollment in Elgin ISD is 3,600.)

But Webster questioned some of the elements of the Elgin High School football/track complex — Wildcat Stadium.

"I'm not an engineer, but the stadium seems extravagant to the point where I don't think they need as much as they got," Webster said. He cited the size of the stadium and an elevator to the press box as an example. (The elevator is required by the American Disabilities Act.)

"Education is number one, whatever it takes," Webster said. "Teachers can't do what they do in an environment that's not proper."

Joe Rios, waiting to get his hair cut at a Main Street barbershop, said, "The elementary schools are antique schools here, they need to be updated seriously. They got a new high school, but they also need to replace some of these elementary schools."

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS

The following governmental entities in Bastrop County and surrounding area have meetings scheduled next week. All are open to the public.

Monday

- Bastrop Public Library Board meets at 6 p.m. at the library, 1100 Church St., Bastrop. Call 321-5441.
- Bastrop Main Street Advisory Board meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Bastrop City Hall Council Chambers, 904 Main St., Bastrop. Call 321-3941.
- Elgin Public Safety Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Elgin City Hall Annex Building Council Chambers, 310 N. Main St., Elgin. Call 281-5724.
- Smithville Planning and Zoning Board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Smithville City Hall Council Chambers, 317 Main St., Smithville. Call 237-3282.
- Aqua Water Supply Corp. board meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Aqua office, 415 Old Austin Hwy., Bastrop. Call 303-3943.

Tuesday

- Elgin Economic Development Corp. board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Elgin City Hall Annex Building Council Chambers, 310 N. Main St., Elgin. Call 281-5724.
- Bastrop City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Bastrop City Hall Council Chambers, 904 Main St., Bastrop. Call 321-3941.

'Opportunity Bastrop' public hearing May 9 is chance to chime in

Bastrop County is in the process of gathering a second round of public input on the vision created last fall to guide the local communities into the future. On May 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the First National Bank of Bastrop on Texas 71, it will be Bastrop's turn to review the work in progress and give comment, input, criticism, advice, opinion and recommendations to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Opportunity Bastrop is the initial draft of the Master Plan and Implementation Guide that the county commissioners and Judge McDonald have asked the Citizens Advisory Committee to present to the public for review and input. The plan is a vision of what the citizens of Bastrop County want for their community over the next five, 10 and 20 years. It tries to identify the issues that need to be working on for the future.

This public hearing is an opportunity for the people of Bastrop to voice their concerns about the future of Bastrop within Bastrop County.

To see the current draft in full, visit the county's website at www.co.bastrop.tx.us. Go to Opportunity Bastrop at the bottom of the page and click. The full document in PDF is available.

For questions about the document or about the series of public hearings that the advisory committee is doing all over the county either call 332-7201 or email gaule.wilhelm@co.bastrop.tx.us or daniel.brown@co.bastrop.tx.us.

Suscribe to
The Bastrop Advertiser
 Call 321-2557 or e-mail

Figure 1 - newspaper ad in 2007

One notable exception to the plan is Housing. Although arguably this may fall within "environmental growth and management" paradigm, the County in recent years has seen a substantial increase in the need for both affordable and market housing.

Subsequent Work on the 2007 Plan

Further to its adoption in 2007, the OBC subcommittees continued to work on the identified goals in the project with subsequent recommendations made to the Court in 2009. The report acknowledged the limited financial resources of the County, and recommended that the County consider Public/ Private Partnerships for the following example projects.

1. Leveraging of Public/ Private partnerships such as Center for Advanced Research and Technology
2. A Higher Education Facility
3. Bastrop Agricultural and Energy Resources Institute
4. Recycling partnerships with the industrial sector – such as converting newspaper to animal bedding
5. Extension of the Bastrop Riverwalk to form a Loop Trail (extending to SH71, a pedestrian overpass, then another pedestrian path on the opposite side of the Colorado River) to serve as a hub for connectivity into the County (although it was acknowledged that this was primarily a City of Bastrop project)
6. Connecting the three major urban areas and major park areas with hiking/ biking trails to provide connectivity between the communities.
7. Construction of a Rodeo Arena and Equestrian/ Event center
8. Target marketing and recruitment

The report also recommended that formation of a County Project Coordinator/ Developer or similar position to “assist all communities with pursuing government and private foundation funding and develop a plan for enhancing and creating new volunteer initiatives that have the potential for making enormous change in the region”.

What is the status of the Opportunity Bastrop County Plan?

It is important to note that the Opportunity Bastrop County plan is not a comprehensive plan as defined under Chapter 213 of the Texas Local Government Code – i.e it will not act as a basis for a future land use/ zoning plan in the way that, for example, the City of Austin’s *Imagine Austin* does. Rather, it acts a broader informational tool for future County funding and decision making as well as providing invaluable context for developers, businesses and nonprofits which operate within the County.

Why are we reviewing Opportunity Bastrop County in 2017?

As page 15 of the Opportunity Bastrop Executive Summary notes, “if a plan sits on a shelf gathering dust, it does no good to anyone”. By carrying out a review, the County will be able to assess the extent to which the goals identified by county citizens have been met, and if not, what can be done to meet them in the future.

Although a status report was produced in the first quarter of 2009 and 2010, many of the goals set out in the plan are long term – and may not necessarily have been achievable within such a short time period. This document has been produced primarily as an internal exercise, with input from the relevant departments and, where necessary, contact with external statutory agencies such as the School Districts and the Lost Pines Groundwater District.

Changing Context

County Disasters

Since the plan was adopted in 2007, Bastrop County has been the subject of a number of natural disasters, including the Bastrop County Complex Fire in Bastrop State Park and Circle C-D in 2011 during which 1,600 residences were destroyed. Although the Federal Government has provided mitigation funds, a significant number of the County’s resources have been involved in reparative efforts to restore the damaged infrastructure.

County Growth

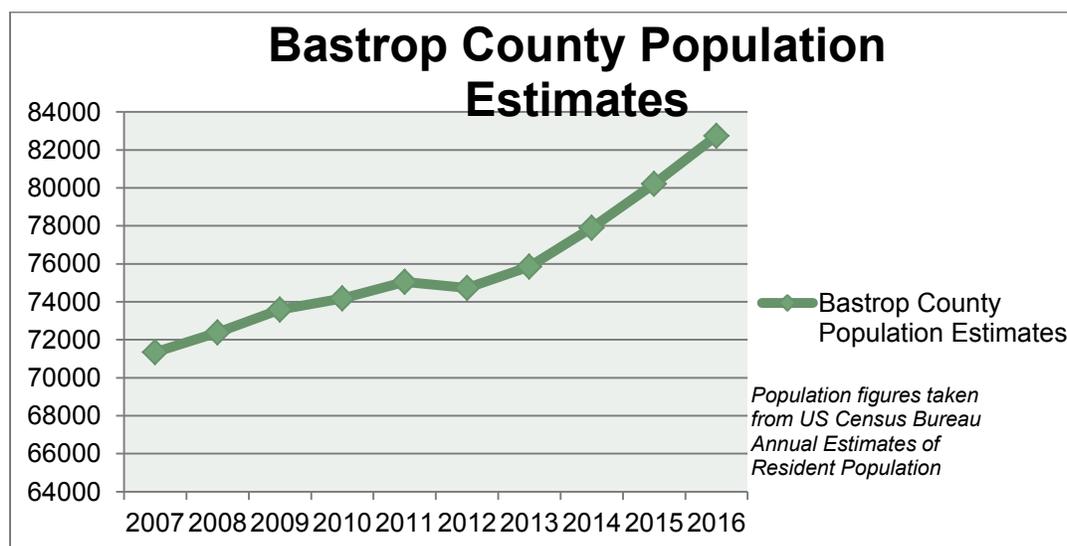


Figure 2 Bastrop County Population Growth (US census Bureau Annual Estimates of Resident Population)

Since 2007, the County has seen significant growth due to its location within the Austin Metropolitan Area. US Census population estimates calculated the 2016 County population to be 82733 inhabitants, an increase of approximately 15% since 2007. Although these figures are estimates only (a clearer picture of the true County growth will be given once the next Census is completed in 2020) the plan below gives an indication of the residential growth which has occurred throughout the County since the most recent 2010 Census – approximately 3145 residential development permits were issued in the unincorporated area between 2010 and 2016; the majority of these located along SH71, SH21 and SH95 between Bastrop and Camp Swift. 127 commercial development permits were also issued, demonstrating steady commercial growth in the unincorporated area.

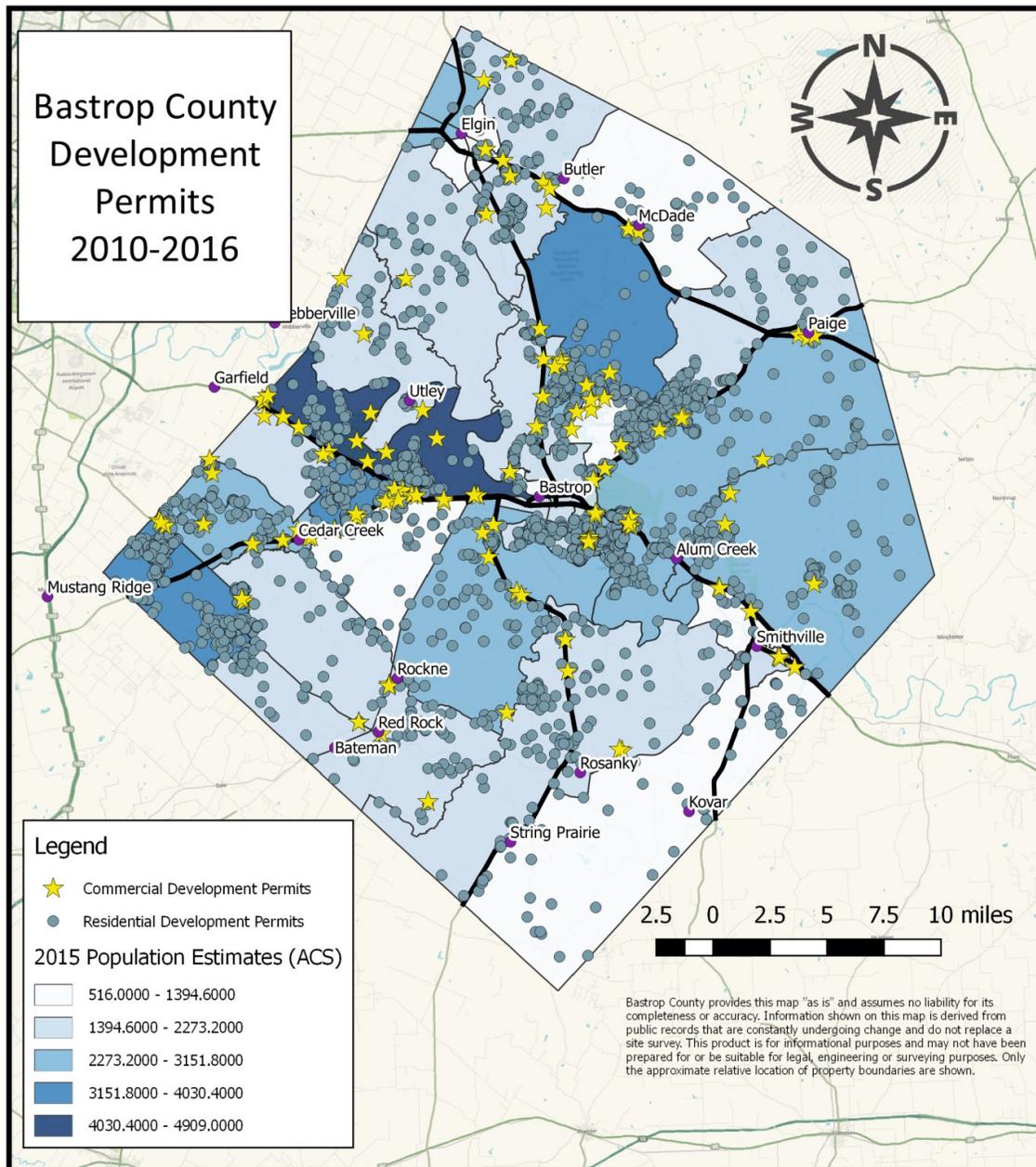


Figure 3 - development permits issues in Bastrop County 2010 - 2016

Given that Census data is the most comprehensive and accurate source of data, Figures 4 and 5 below have also been included to demonstrate the broader geographical distribution of growth throughout the County between the two most recent census surveys. The majority of population growth has occurred outwith the incorporated areas and recognized Census Designated Places (CDPs), particularly towards the Travis County line.

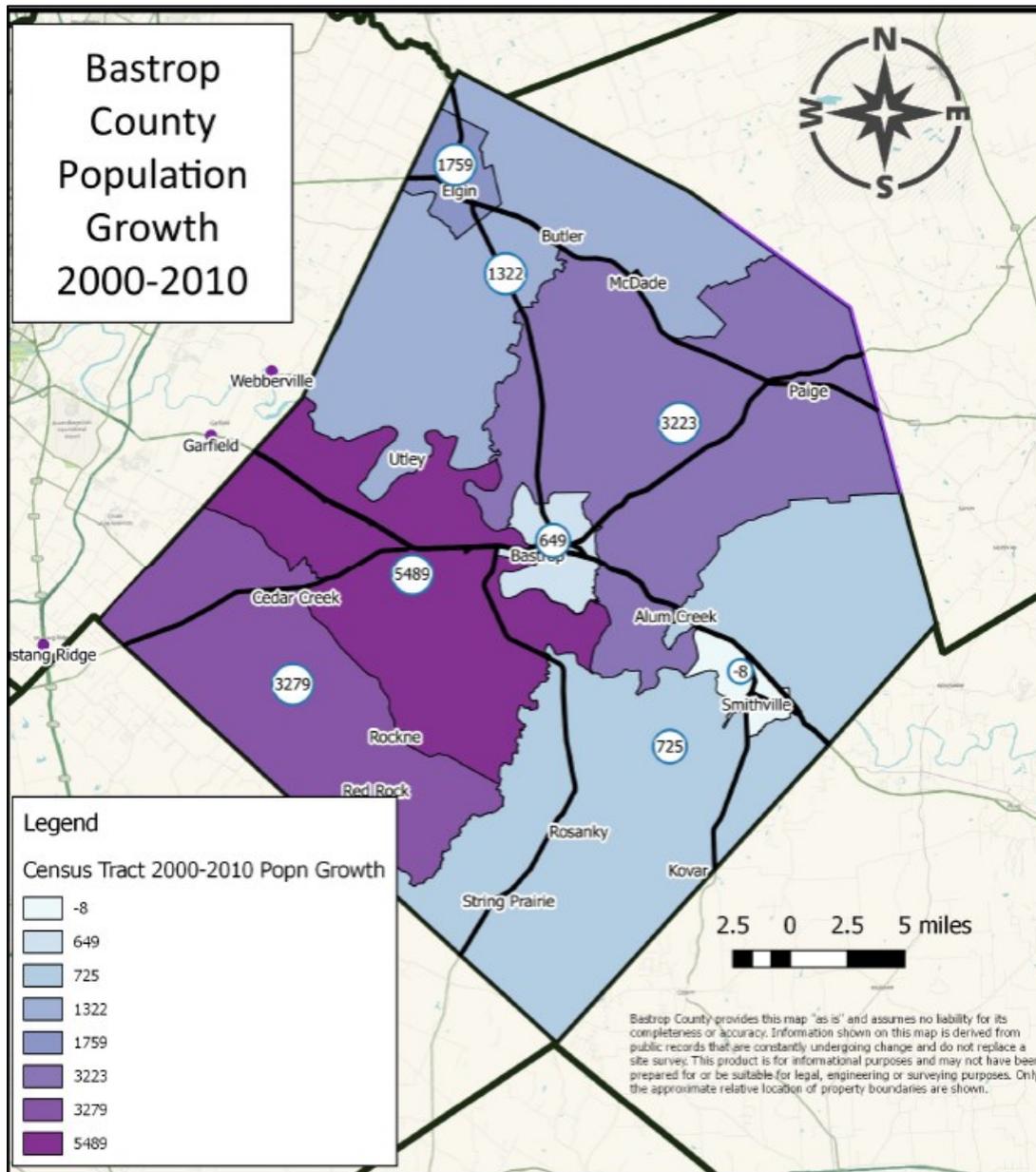


Figure 4 - Bastrop County population change 2000-2010 census by Census Tract

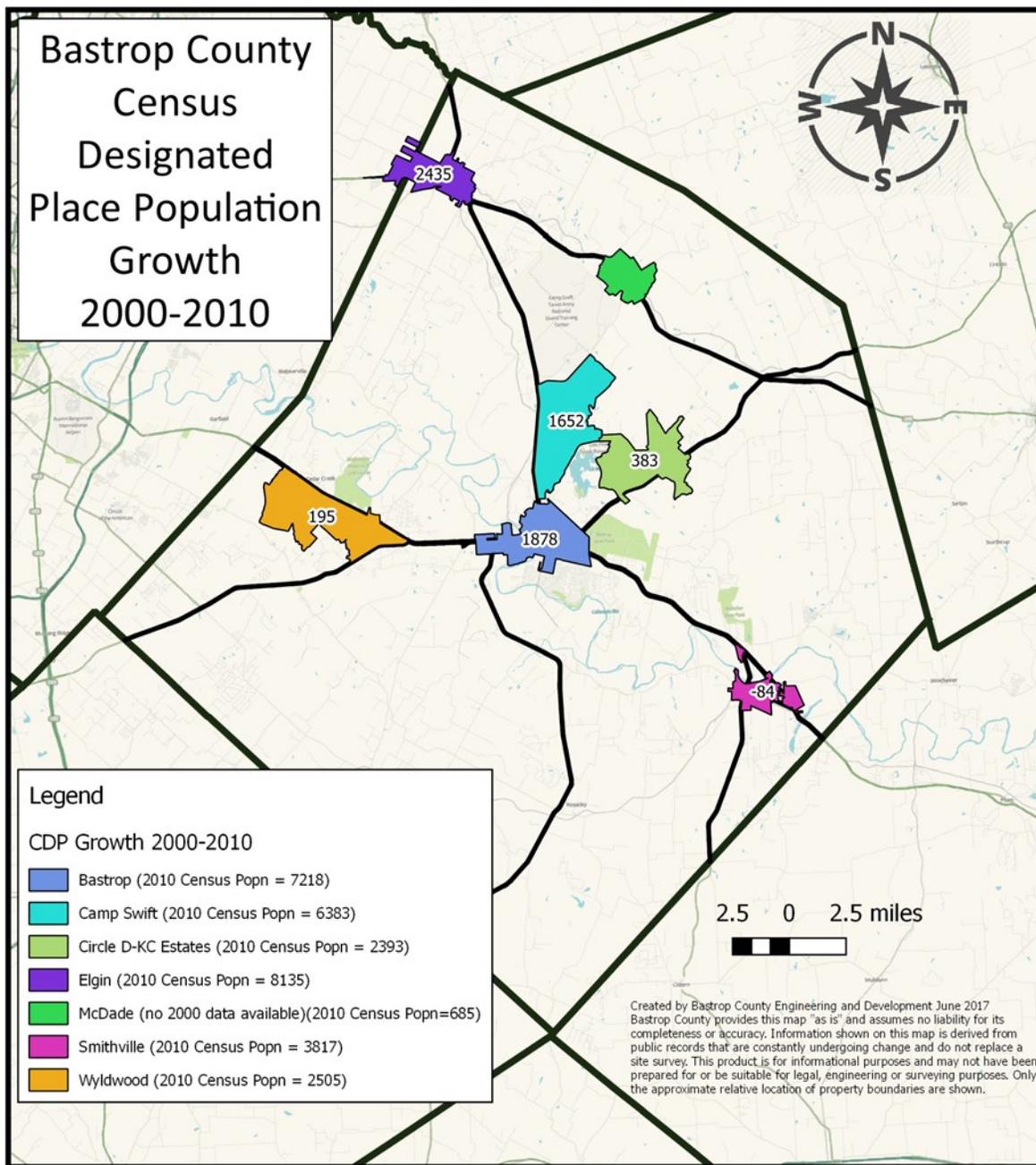


Figure 5 Bastrop County population change 2000-2010 Census by Census Designated Place only

2. Theme - Environmental Quality and Growth Management

Overall Goal

Retain and enhance the rural character of Bastrop County while encouraging growth that is in balance with human and environmental needs today and in the future

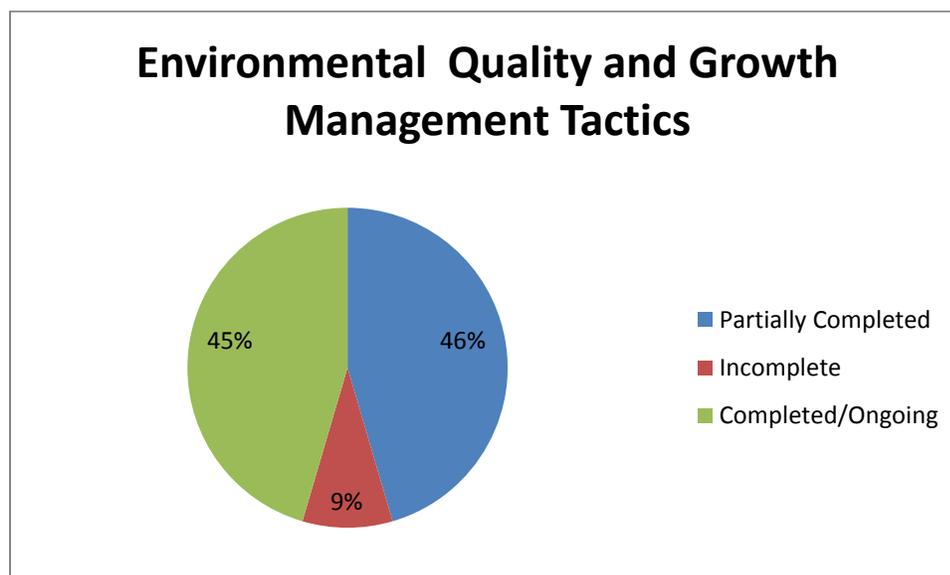
Key Objectives

1. To preserve the agricultural and natural aspects of Bastrop County
2. To ensure a sufficient quality of clean water for the County's future.

Overview

The first section contains the highest number of proposed actions, with a total of 19 tactics covering land use and green space, water planning, and habitat conservation. The objectives were identified in town hall meetings, whereby citizens expressed concerns about environmental issues facing Bastrop County in the face of rapid residential growth, with water quality and quantity protection ranked as the most important. The plan recommended that these concerns be addressed through "land stewardship" which encourages voluntary land conservation practices.

As the previous section demonstrated, since the approval of the 2007 Plan there has been significant growth throughout the region, although Bastrop County is still considered "rural" according to the most recent (2010) Census.



Key Achievements

Support of the Agricultural Industry and Encouragement of Land Stewardship

Page 3 of the OBC plan states that the County should

- Encourage continued agricultural land uses;
- Preserve agricultural lands and wildlife habitat; and
- Support locally produced food, goods and wildlife

All these objectives are dealt with through the work of the Texas AgriLife Extension, a partnership program with Texas A & M University which focuses primarily on the education and support of the local agricultural industry, in addition to initiatives promoting healthy living and youth development. AgriLife Extension has established a number of programs which contribute to the above three goals, in particular:

- Land stewardship training and outreach programs including:
 - Pesticide applicator training
 - Orchard management assistance
 - Master Naturalist Land Stewardship Volunteer Program
 - Pond management tools and assistance (AQUAPLANT)
 - On site consultation regarding grazing, pasture rotation to ensure sustainable use of agricultural land
- Hay quality testing campaigns
- Feral Hog Bounty to assist agricultural productivity.

AgriLife has also partially contributed to part (b) of the second objective which seeks to “*ensure a sufficient quality of clean water for the County's future*” through the encouragement of land stewardship practices which (i) “*Enhance the amount and quality of water reaching aquifers and re-charge zones;* and(ii). “*Decrease run-off and erosion.*” The office carries out a number of programs concerning water quality and conservation, including an annual water well testing campaign, educational programs for rainwater harvesting and collection, and participation in the Annual Water Fair in partnership with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. The Master Naturalist Land Stewardship program also offers training on erosion control.

Although not directly attributable to Bastrop County, mention should also be made of Texas Center for Local Food, a non-profit organization which provides educational and technical assistance for the local

agricultural sector throughout the County in partnership with the City of Elgin; and the development of agriculture educational programs such as the Sustainable Agriculture Entrepreneurship program at Austin Community College's Elgin Campus.

Participation in the Central Texas Greenprinting Exercise

Further to the adoption of the OBC plan in 2007, the Environmental Management and Growth Subcommittee remained active to lead on the County's engagement with the 2009 "Envision Central Texas" Greenprinting exercise. The [Greenprint](#) (a link to which is also available on the Bastrop County Long Range Planning website) identifies high priority areas for conservation that meet ecosystem protection goals, and identifies local open space and park needs. Broadly speaking, the areas with the highest areas for conservation were found along the banks of the Colorado River and within the floodplain and the Houston Toad Conservation Plan area.

Areas for Further Consideration

Encourage Designation of the Colorado River Alluvium as a Minor Aquifer

The Opportunity Bastrop Plan identified that the majority of Bastrop County's municipal and private water comes from the Colorado River Alluvium - the shallow aquifer immediately below and bordering the Colorado River, extending from Austin to Wharton, TX.. As this water source is not recognized officially by the state/ Texas Water Development Board as an aquifer, it is not afforded the protective measures and monitoring that other minor aquifers in the State receive, and the plan therefore recommended that the County campaign for this official recognition. However, to date this has not been undertaken and the Colorado River Alluvium continues to lack official recognition and statutory protection. Although the broader land management and runoff management educational programs led by Texas Agri-life seek to protect all groundwater sources - regardless of their official status – the County should continue to monitor this issue and encourage any studies which may support its designation.

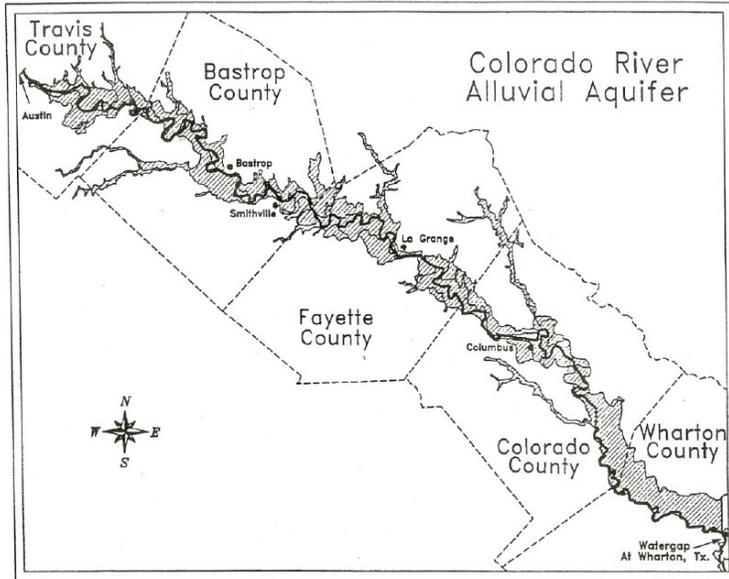


Figure 6 - Extent of the Colorado River Alluvium (after Barnes,1974 and Saunders, 1996)

Development of a Parks Masterplan and Open Space Policy

Objective (f) suggested that the “County Parks and Open Space Plan” be updated, however in 2017 there is no such document in circulation (the most recent County wide Parks, Recreation and Open Space Masterplan was adopted in 2001 and expired in 2011). Although the 2009 Envision Central Texas greenprinting exercise offered an analysis of land with high conservation opportunities, there has been no subsequent plan or policy developed by the County which would guide decisions regarding the acceptance, use and management of parkland onto the County inventory. It is recommended that this be prioritized going forward to ensure that existing and potential future parkland is utilized to its full potential.

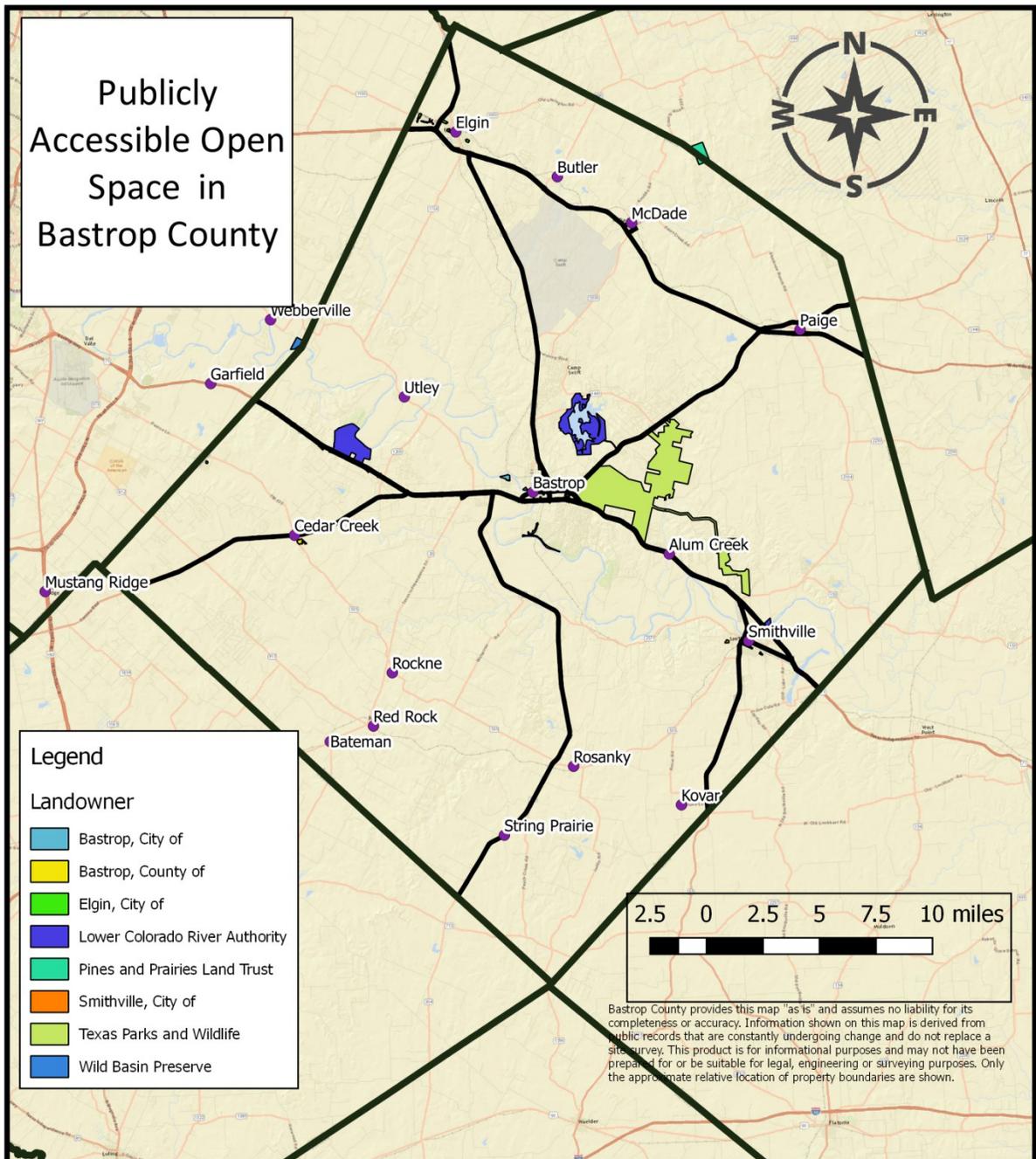


Figure 7 Publicly Accessible Open Space in Bastrop County

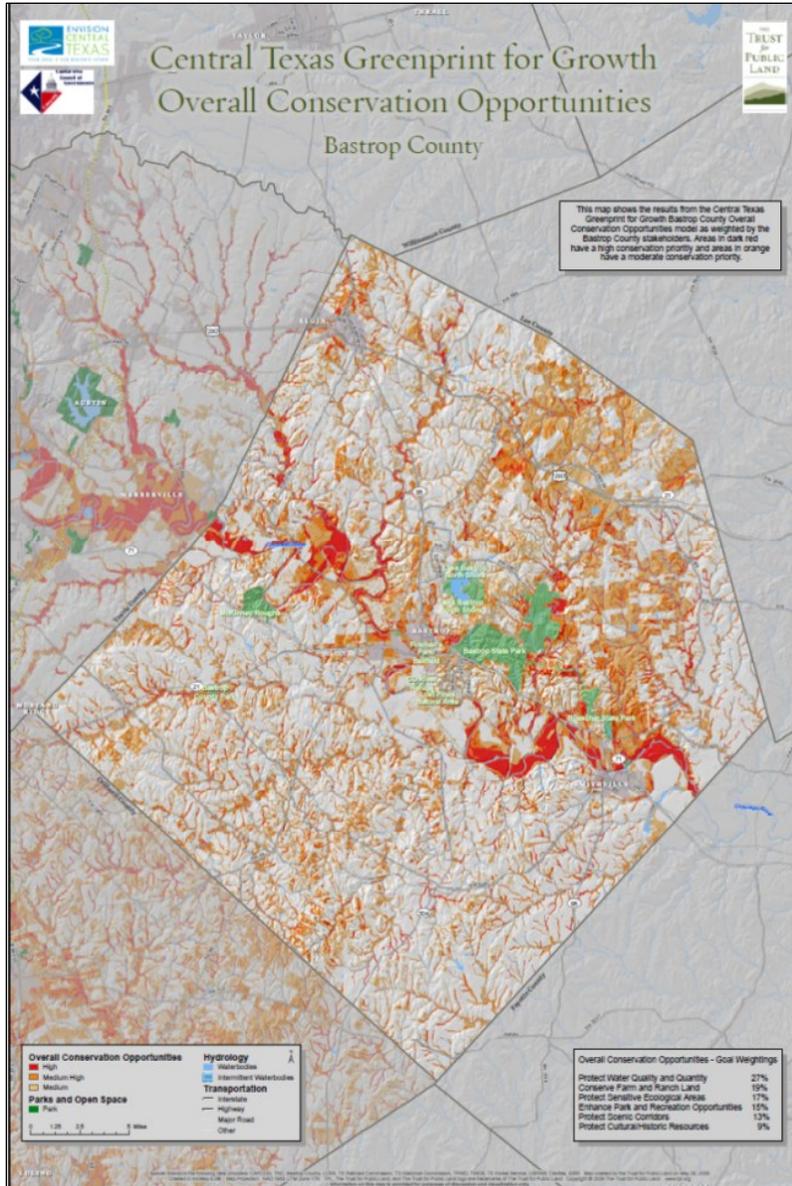


Figure 8 - extract from Central Texas Greenprint for Growth showing Conservation Opportunities in the County (2009)

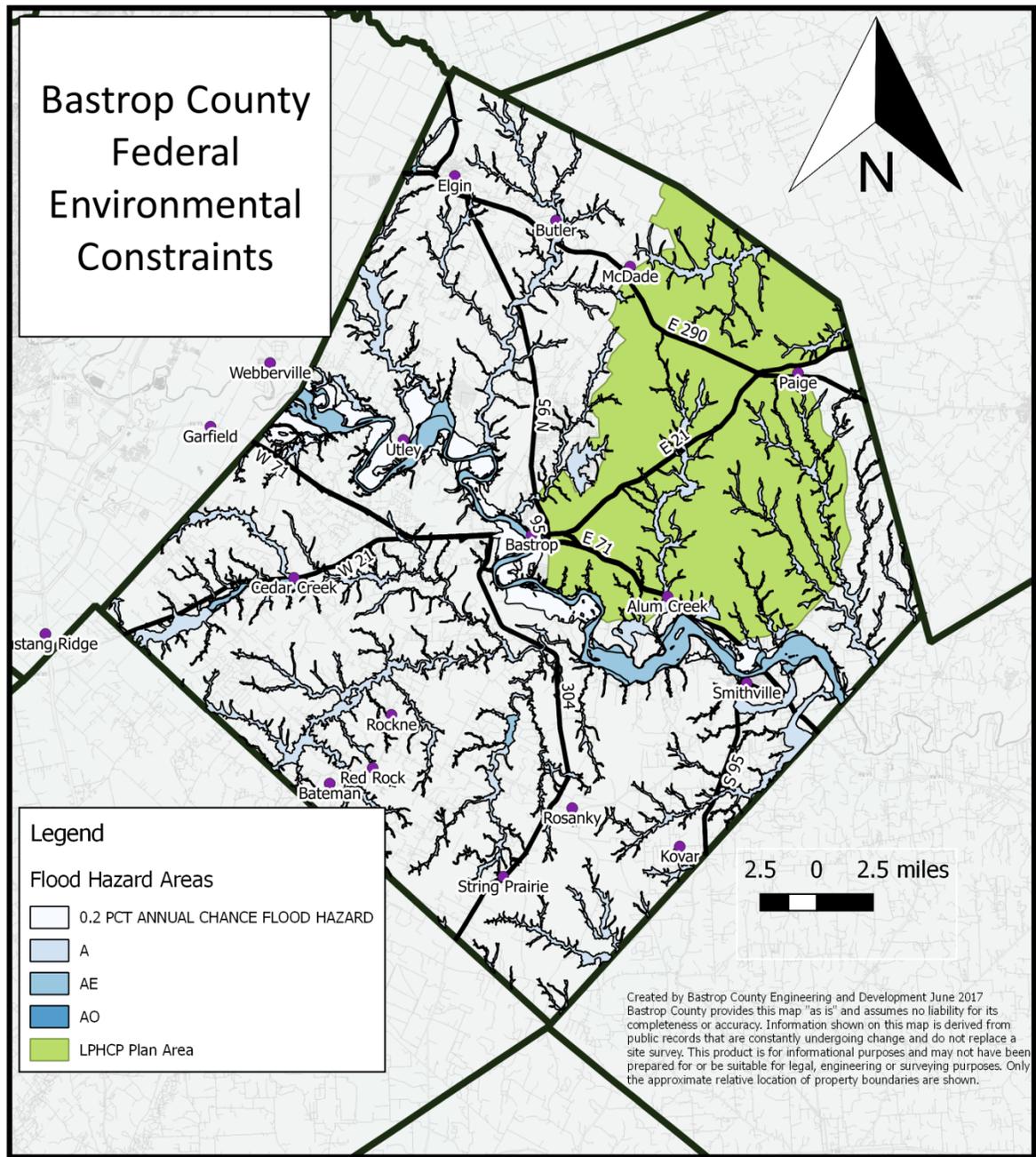


Figure 9 - Federal level Environmental Constraints in the County

Objective	Tactic	Status			Comments	Further action required?	Relevant department
		Completed/ Ongoing	Partially completed	Incomplete			
To preserve the agricultural and natural aspects of Bastrop County	<i>a. Encouraging continued agricultural land uses emphasizing</i>						
	i. Responsible land use practices	✓			Agri-Life Extension undertakes numerous educational and outreach programs with agricultural landowners emphasizing sustainable land use.		Agri-life Extension
	ii. Expansion of farmers' market opportunities;	✓			Educational campaigns by Agri-life Extension encouraging sourcing local produce. Texas Local Foods currently contracted by City of Elgin to assist sale of local food in the area, which includes farmers markets –	Agri-life extension and City of Elgin/ Texas Local Food to investigate possible partnership working. Consider developing incentives to	Agri-life Extension

					however there is a struggle to recruit smaller farmers to participate.	encourage smaller farmers to participate.	
	iii. Partnerships with the County’s agricultural industry to enhance the industry’s economic viability.	✓			A number of programs in place with Agrilife Extension to support the agricultural industry. Numerous third party programs also in place – such as Austin Community College’s Sustainable Agriculture Entrepreneurship program		Agri-life Extension/ external
	b. Developing a comprehensive, science-based map identifying water bodies, farm land, ranch land and wild land to help: i. preserve agricultural and livestock land uses; Support water resources and green		✓		This data was mostly corroborated as part of the Texas Greenprinting exercise in 2009 (a link to the study is available on the Long Range Planning website).		Development Services

<p>space preservation ; and iii. Guide development of future recreational residential commercial and infrastructure.</p>						
<p>c. Allocating County resources to support the County’s participation in the Trust for Public Land and Envision Central Texas “greenprinting” project.</p>	✓			<p>The Envisage Central Texas Greenprint was completed and published in 2009 and is available online.</p>		External
<p>d. Implementing public/private partnerships with land trusts and similar organizations to support the protection, preservation, and maintenance of parks, and green spaces.</p>		✓		<p>Agri-life Master Naturalists program partners with the Lost Pines and Prairies Land Trust</p>		Ag-life extension
<p>e. Identifying and preserving significant springs and riparian habitat.</p>		✓		<p>This is dealt with through the Texas Water Code and TCEQ – although there is not a publicly accessible</p>		External

					map which shows “significant” springs and riparian habitat.		
f. Updating the County Parks and Open Space Plan to include: i. Priorities for Colorado River streamside protection through connecting preserves, trails, and river access points; and ii. Priorities for preserving sensitive habitat and historical and cultural assets.		✓			There does not appear to be a current comprehensive Parks and Open Space Plan for the County as a whole, however the City of Bastrop updated its Parks and Open Space MasterPlan in 2015. Priorities mapped as part of the ECT Greenprint.	Establish Parks Acceptance Policy, and seek funding for Parks and Open Space Plan.	External
g. Implementing “conservation” subdivision regulations that address methods for encouraging: i. Green space protection; ii. Water conservation measures; iii. Decreased impervious cover;	✓				Conservation subdivision development guidelines are available and were appended to the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan in November 2006.	To date only one conservation subdivision has been brought forward - further work with landowners is suggested, including	Development Services/ LPCHP

<p>iv. Energy efficient construction; and v. Energy efficient fixtures and appliances.</p>				<p>However, there is no specific reference "conservation subdivision" within the current Bastrop County Subdivision Regulations.</p>	<p>providing information on the County website to which people can be referred during the subdivision process.</p>	
<p>h. Completing and implementing the Houston Toad Habitat Conservation Plan.</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>The Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan was completed in December 2007 and approved in April 2008 when the County was granted an Endangered Species Incidental Take Permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>		<p>LPHCP Administrator</p>
<p>i. Supporting regional efforts to ensure environmentally safe air quality in the County.</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>Bastrop County is represented on the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition which produced an ozone reduction Regional</p>	<p>Ongoing participation and review of commitments made as part of the original</p>	<p>Development Services/ Commissioners Court</p>

					Action Plan in December 2013 in partnership with CAPCOG	Action Plan.	
2. To ensure a sufficient quality of clean water for the County's future	a. Developing and maintaining effective involvement with the Lower Colorado Water Planning Group, the Lower Colorado River Authority, Aqua Water Supply Corp., the Lost Pines Ground Water Conservation District, and other pertinent organizations planning for future water supplies.		✓		The County is represented by John Burke at the Region K Water Planning Group. There is not currently a representative from the County (elected or staff) on the Board of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.	Consider putting forward a representative for the County to serve on the Lost Pines Groundwater District Board.	
	b. Preserving water capacity and quality in the County's underground aquifers by encouraging land stewardship practices to: i. Enhance the amount and quality of water reaching aquifers	✓			Agri-life extension has a Texas Watershed Steward program which focuses on the agricultural sector. 2017 subdivision regs require an "Erosion Control Plan" for	Consider feasibility of utilizing resources produced as part of the Agrilife program engage with the	

<p>and re-charge zones; and ii. Decrease run-off and erosion.</p>				<p>larger plats. Erosion and water quality is also dealt with through the Bastrop County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)who are currently undertaking public consultation for conservation opportunities.</p>	<p>manufacturing/ industrial sector. Continuing Support and engagement with the SWCD’s conservation planning efforts.</p>	
<p>c. Obtaining official designation and protection for the Colorado River alluvial aquifer, a major water source for the County.</p>			<p>✓</p>	<p>This was never obtained</p>	<p>Continue to monitor</p>	
<p><i>d. Protecting aquifer recharge zones by:</i></p>						
<p>i. Reducing the amount and placement of impervious cover;</p>		<p>✓</p>		<p>Impervious cover is not specifically restricted by the County, although full applications to subdivide and certain</p>	<p>Investigate feasibility of assessing impervious cover through the development</p>	<p>Development Services</p>

					development permit applications will require a drainage study demonstrating no net runoff.	permitting system under the County's Floodplain Management Ordinance.	
	ii. Securing protective conservation easements.	✓			This is generally pursued within the Lost Pines Conservation Plan (LPHCP) Area – to date approximately 260 easements/ 8600 acres have been secured through the LPHCP, with others secured by the Lost Pines and prairies Land Trust.	Continue to work with landowners and developers to secure easements throughout the county. Consider providing information during the subdivision process.	
	e. Keeping the river, streams, and watersheds clear of debris and contaminants.		✓		This falls within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Texas Water Code – governed by TCEQ and partially through Floodplain	Consider updating the Floodplain Ordinance to regulate erosion and run-off for	Development Services/ Agri-life Extension

					Management (although the existing Floodplain Ordinance only applies to land within the statutory Floodplain). Agri-life Extension carries out outreach programs with local farmers regarding water quality and runoff.	development throughout the unincorporated area.	
f. Regulating the commercial sale and/or export of groundwater.	✓				The Lost Pines Water Conservation District 2001 requires a permit to be obtained for the export of water outwith its boundaries		
g. Requiring developers to provide proof that water supplies are adequate to meet the development's needs through build-out.		✓			For subdivisions indicating water well usage, the Lost Pines Groundwater District will confirm with development services whether the area has		Development Services/ External

					<p>the capacity to accommodate water-wells.</p> <p>Aqua Water will not confirm if a site can be serviced by them until a feasibility study has been carried out at a cost to the applicant.</p>		
	<p>h. Developing and implementing standards and incentives for residential and commercial water harvesting, including</p> <p>i. Rainwater collecting systems;</p> <p>ii. Gray water collection and distribution systems; and</p> <p>iii. Water run-off capture and re-use systems.</p>		✓		<p>It is understood that standards have not been pursued due to the County's lack of regulatory authority in land use and development although it may be prudent to look into publishing information guides and third party grant opportunities.</p> <p>This has been undertaken by AgriLife Extension within the agricultural sector</p>	<p>Funding opportunities to assist water harvesting should be explored.</p>	

	<p>i. Exploring the feasibility of creating a County water and/or wastewater district.</p>			<p>✓</p>	<p>It is understood that this has not been done. Waste water districts have been formed in specific areas only – such as the Tahitian Village subdivision. Creation of a County wide water district would overlap with Aqua Water’s statutory jurisdiction.</p>		<p>Development Services/ Commissioners Court</p>
	<p>j. Strengthening on-site septic system regulations.</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>OSSF Regulations updated 06/12/2017</p>		<p>Development Services</p>

3. Theme - Transportation Enhancement

Overall Goal

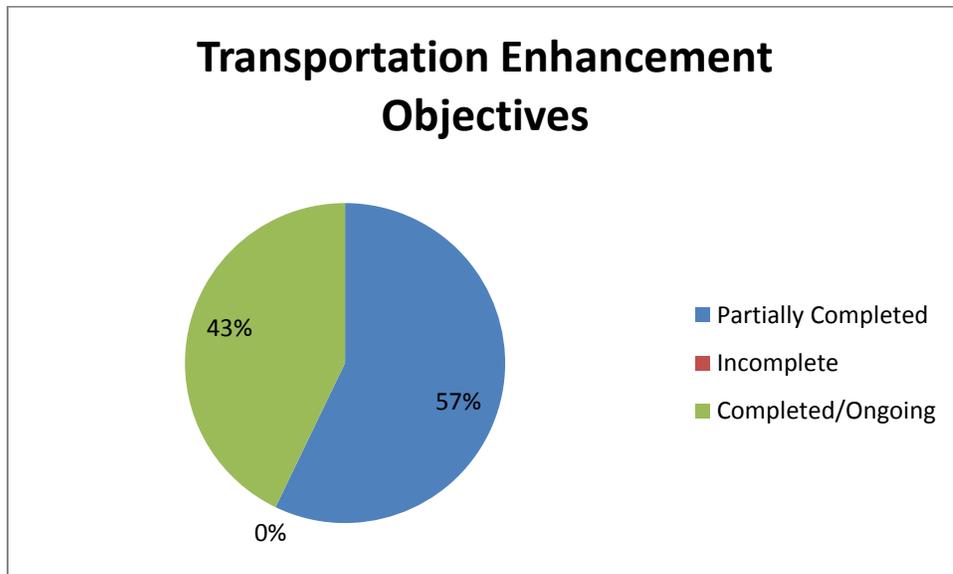
Develop a county-wide transportation system that provides safe and efficient movement of people and goods by utilizing a comprehensive network of streets and public transportation systems that are scalable and sustainable as the population grows.

Key Objectives

- 1. To develop a county-wide roadway system that would integrate street and highway plans of cities, the county, state, and regional agencies to provide safe and efficient travel*
- 2. To develop a county transit system that would serve people in communities and rural areas of the County and provide mobility with cities in the County and the region*

Overview

The second section is split into 7 key tactics which deal with need to expand, improve and maintain highway infrastructure and safety, as well as transit service improvements in partnership with the existing CARTS system (it notes that a totally new countywide transit system would be cost-prohibitive). The plan notes that the increasing traffic and rising gas prices make access to alternative transportation more important, and suggest projects such as the provision of additional car/ van pooling, park and ride locations, support of commuter rail and the support of Volunteer Drivers Programs such as the American Cancer Society system. The plan also recommends that the County participate in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).



Key Achievements

Participation in Regional Transportation Planning Efforts

The County has made significant progress Bastrop County joined the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, allowing it to participate in the regional planning process and provide input into the state highway planning process, in addition to benefitting from funding opportunities for projects on the County Road network.

County Wide Transportation Planning

Shortly after the adoption of the Opportunity Bastrop plan, work commenced on a County- wide transportation plan in partnership with the Capital Area Council of Governments and CAMPO – eventually being adopted in 2010. A further Transportation Plan was produced and adopted by the Commissioner’s Court – part of this process involved updating a GIS road map which details the type and condition of each road in the Count, in addition to signage and historical accident data .

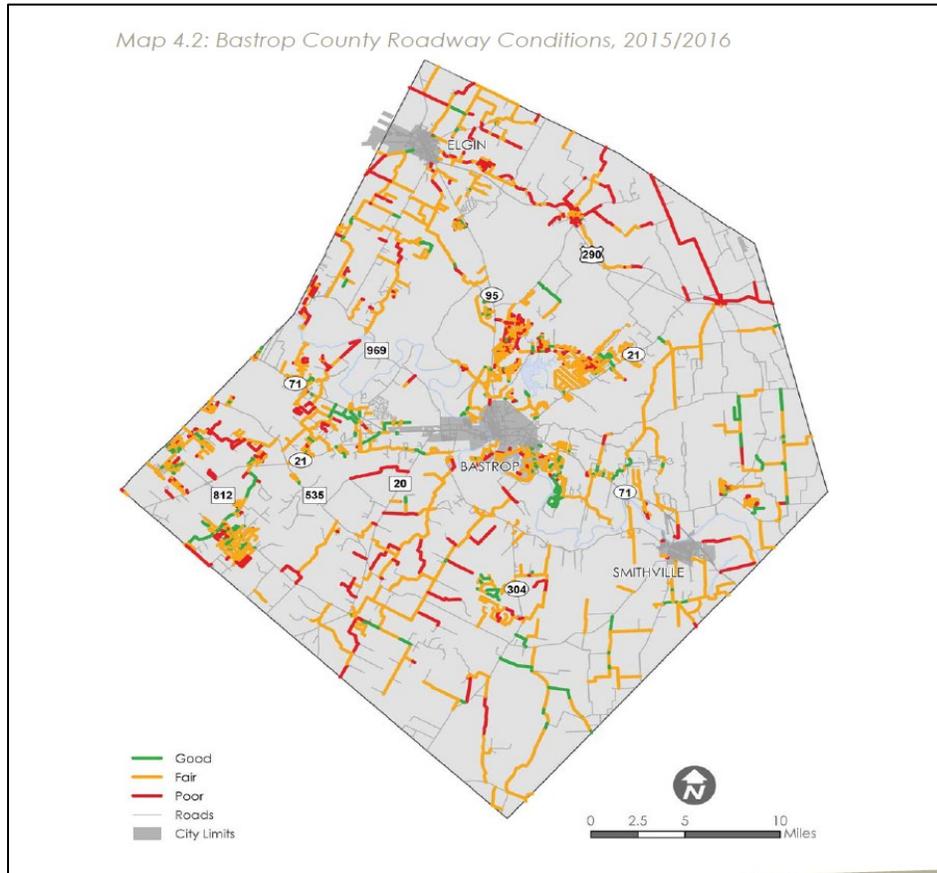


Figure 10 Bastrop County Roadway Conditions as identified in 2016 Bastrop County Transportation Plan

Areas for Further Consideration

Identification of Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects

Tactic 1(b)(ii) recommends that the County “Identify locations based on need and connectivity for pedestrian and bicycle routes. Although the 2016 Transportation Plan identified two pedestrian/ cycle projects (a hike and bike trail along Old Highway 20, and a hike and bike trail from Smithville to Buescher State Park), both these trails are recreational in nature and so do not particularly meet any existing major transportation or safety needs. There are State and Federal Grant Programs which specifically fund transportation related pedestrian and biking projects (such a sidewalk connecting a grocery store and a nearby residential subdivision) therefore having a document which focuses on identifying gaps and eligible projects would allow the County to apply for these funds when the opportunities come up.

This exercise is practically being carried out through CAMPO's Active Transportation Plan, and a consultation was carried out earlier this year. However, the consultation focused on the incorporated municipalities only, and it may be beneficial for the County to undertake this analysis in the more densely populated areas of the Unincorporated Area, possibly in partnership with the local ISDs.

Transit Planning

The County participates in the CAMPO Regional Transit Coordinating Committee, along with the Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) which most recently adopted a Coordinated Public Transit-Health and Human Services Transportation Plan in February 2017. The plan identifies the existing services in the County through both CARTS and voluntary providers, as well as service gaps and needs within the service area.

Within Bastrop County, the only identified additional need in the plan was an improved service between the City of Bastrop and Central Austin. Existing traffic conditions and road capacity in the 2016 Transportation Plan would indicate that there are additional corridors which could potentially also be served by transit, such as the SH95 corridor between Elgin and Bastrop, increased frequency of the 290 routes between Elgin and Smithville. A "light touch" Transit Plan which is specific to Bastrop County may provide a more comprehensive overview of the existing demand and potential ridership, while taking into account the operational constraints of the rural area.

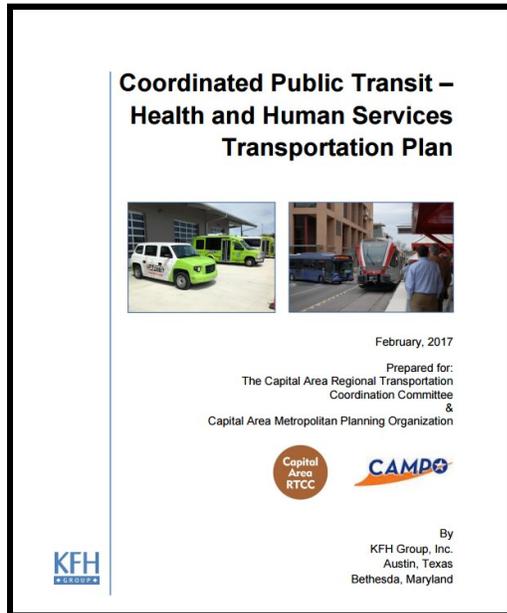


Figure 11 CAMPO wide public transit plan adopted February 2017 which includes an assessment of Bastrop County existing needs and conditions.

Promotion of Existing Transit Services

Discussions with CARTS indicate that there is existing capacity on all of their services, including the Smithville/ Bastrop to Central Austin commuter service, which operates Monday to Friday on a monthly subscription basis. However, unlike Capital Metro, they do not receive funding from Sales Tax and therefore have a very limited marketing budget. The County should seek to assist CARTS in marketing its existing services to the public - such as including a link to the CARTS website on their homepage, and displaying bus service timetables within the County buildings.

Capital Metro also offers a subsidized van-pool program, whereby up to 7 riders can share a subsidized vehicle into the Capital Metro service area. The County should work with CARTS and Capital Metro to promote this program to residential “clusters” in the unincorporated area.

Capital Improvement Planning (CIP)

Tactic 1(a)(i) suggests that the County should develop and adopt a County Capital Improvement Plan to coordinate the implementation of the County Roadway System with participating agencies. The Auditor’s Office has adopted a CIP on a bi-annual basis since 2010, which identifies, determines the cost of and allocates funding to capital projects (Technology, Buildings and Road) for the subsequent five

years. However, although the “technology” and “Buildings” section of the plan set out individual projects, the “County Roads” section only allocates a lump sum, as opposed to identifying specific projects.

Although it is not necessarily advisable to allocate projects for all of the road and bridge funding (as this would significantly reduce flexibility), it may be worth considering identifying one or two Priority Projects for each precinct in the next CIP cycle.

Objective	Tactic	Status			Comments	Further action required?	Relevant department
		Completed/ Ongoing	Partially completed	Incomplete			
1. To develop a county-wide roadway system that would integrate street and highway plans of cities, the county, state, and regional agencies to	<i>a. Participating in the TXDOT- County Roadway System Planning Project.</i>	✓			Bastrop County has been an active member of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization(CAMPO) since 2009. CAMPO acts as the interface between TxDOT project planning and programming.	Ongoing participation with CAMPO and other regional planning partners	Engineering and CIP

<p>provide safe and efficient travel</p>	<p>i. Creating a consolidated county-wide roadway plan developed by the county using the following inputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County roadway plans, 2. Bastrop street plans, 3. Elgin street plans, 4. Smithville street plans, 5. State highway plans, 6. County independent school districts, 7. Rural communities, and 8. Emergency service organizations. 	<p>✓</p>			<p>A consolidated Roadway map is available in GIS format which was derived from CAPCOG, TxDOT and County data sources.</p>	<p>The GIS version of this map is currently only accessible internally. The feasibility of making this available to the public should be studied.</p>	<p>911 GIS and Addressing</p>
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	<p>ii. Developing and adopting a County Capital Improvement Plan to coordinate the implementation of the County Roadway System with participating agencies.</p>		<p>✓</p>		<p>The County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was first adopted in April 2010 and has been updated biennially since then. It allocates funding for County roads on a precinct by precinct basis, however exact projects are not specified.</p>	<p>Look into the feasibility of identifying specific mapped projects within the CIP</p>	<p>Auditor's Office/ Commissioners Court/ CIP and Engineering</p>
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	<p><i>b. Developing project plans to solve short-term needs of county roadways by:</i></p> <p>i. Identifying and proposing solutions addressing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing road conditions, 2. Adequate signage, 3. Traffic control devices, 4. Conflicts at high accident locations, and 5. Safe operations at congested intersections. 	✓			<p>The most recent Bastrop County Transportation Plan was approved at Commissioners Court in December 2016 (an update of the 2010 Transportation Plan). The plan details existing road and signage conditions and accident locations.</p>	<p>Ensure that this is maintained on an ongoing basis. Investigate the feasibility of allowing public input via the website.</p>	CIP and Engineering
	<p>ii. Identifying locations based on need and connectivity for pedestrian and bicycle routes.</p>		✓		<p>This is currently being undertaken as part of the CAMPO Active Transportation Plan.</p>	<p>Based on the results consider implementing a more County specific study</p>	CIP and Engineering

						which also engages with the unincorporated areas.	
2. To develop a county transit system that would serve people in communities and rural areas of the County and provide mobility with cities in the County and the region	a. Assessing current conditions and making recommendations related to the need for jobs, health care, educational, and recreational opportunities.		✓		The 2016 Transportation Plan identifies the need for a Transit Service Plan to be prepared by the County however this has yet to be implemented. The County also participates on a regional level with wider transit planning studies - including Project Connect and CAMPO’s Health and Human Services Transit Plan, however	Recommended ongoing participation with CAMPO, CARTS and CapMetro. Work with CapMetro to promote their VanPool Program for County residents commuting into Austin.	CIP and Engineering
	b. Identifying, recommending, and developing different types of transit services related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bus system ii. Light rail systems, iii. Car/ van pooling iv. Volunteer driver programs 						

					these tend to have more of a focus on Central Austin.		
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4. Theme - Economic Development and Educational Opportunities

Overall Goal

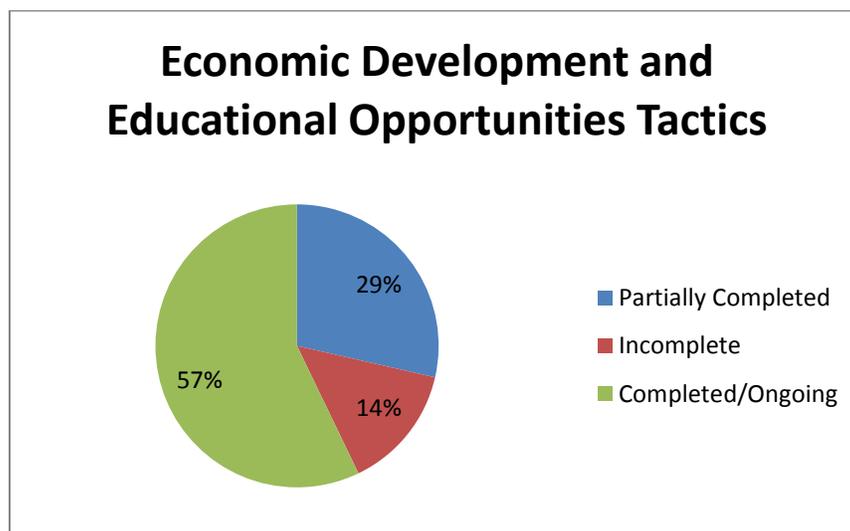
Coordinate and develop a regional approach to economic development by working with the cities' economic development efforts

Key Objectives

- 1. Develop a policy that will provide economic benefits to the County and cities as well as to prospective businesses as the population grows.*
- 2. Develop a policy to leverage the County assets to advance tourism of Bastrop County, utilizing identified assets.*
- 3. Support the county School Districts in their efforts to improve academic results and workforce development.*
- 4. Encourage higher learning opportunities in Bastrop County.*

Overview

This section focuses on the County's role in promoting economic development within its boundaries – both with coordinating with the relevant development organizations in the incorporated cities, and working with and supporting the Independent School Districts and Higher Learning providers to develop a well-trained workforce. Tourism is noted as a potential driver of economic growth which should be developed further, and the plan suggests working with local producers to establish agricultural tourism opportunities similar to the vineyard areas in Fredericksburg. 7 distinct tactics were identified in this section.



Key Achievements

The County has made significant progress in Objectives 1 (economic development and cooperation) and 2 (Tourism). Specifically, the County now has two members of staff dedicated to Economic Development and Tourism who are responsible for identifying and leveraging “*County assets to advance tourism of Bastrop County*” funded in part by the Bastrop County Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) established back in 2011. No such staff resource existed back in 2007 when the original Opportunity Bastrop Plan was adopted.

In addition, Austin Community College Elgin Campus opened in 2013, providing access to further and higher education opportunities for County residents.

Areas for Further Consideration

The establishment of a technical or vocational college has not yet occurred – this is something that could be considered by the Economic Development Corporations of the municipalities. However, it should also be noted that, since 2007, the Independent School Districts have increased their focus on career and technical education further to the implementation of House Bill 5 in 2013. The House Bill 5 Foundation High School Program established a number of “Career Clusters” such as Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Marketing; Law Enforcement, and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics, and these are offered by the High Schools within the County.

Objective 3 suggested that the County be more proactive in “*Increasing the Independent School District’s awareness of the importance of academic achievement with regard to the economic development of the community through presentations to the ISD Board of Directors*”. The school districts engage on a regular basis with the relevant Chambers of Commerce, and a channel of communication between local businesses and the educational sector is already in existence. Rather than focusing on how the County can increase the ISD’s awareness of the need to improve academic achievement, it may be more helpful for the County to look at ways in which they can work with and support the ISDs, in particular the McDade ISD which is not affiliated with a particular municipality.

Objective	Tactic	Status			Comments	Further action required?	Responsible department
		Completed/Ongoing	Partially completed	Incomplete			
1. Develop a policy that will provide economic benefits to the County and cities as well as to prospective businesses as the population grows	a. Maintaining a strong working relationship with Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville planning and/or economic development functions to: i. Establish common and well thought out incentive policies for new businesses; and ii. Promote and encourage established businesses.	✓			BEST (Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville, Texas) involves representatives from the county and each of the incorporated cities in order to coordinate planning and economic development – BEST approximately meets monthly	Engagement should be maintained on an ongoing basis	Economic Development and Tourism

<p>2. Develop a policy to leverage the County assets to advance tourism of Bastrop County, utilizing identified assets</p>	<p>(Develop a policy utilizing identified assets such as) a. Colorado the Lost Pines, and other natural features; b. Historical sites and areas; c. Agricultural tourism; d. Events; and e. Arts and culture.</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>The County now has a Director of Economic Development <u>and Tourism</u> who is responsible for promoting the tourism in the County throughout the State.</p>		<p>Economic Development and Tourism</p>
<p>3. Support the County School Districts in their efforts to improve academic results by:</p>	<p>a. Supporting and encouraging the Independent School District's involvement with the Central Texas "Education Equals Economics (E3)" initiative;</p>		<p>✓</p>		<p>Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville ISD continue to participate in the E3 Alliance. McDade ISD does not.</p>	<p>Engagement with McDade ISD</p>	<p>External</p>
	<p>b. Increasing public awareness of the importance of education;</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>This is carried out by the Education</p>	<p>Ongoing support of the ISDs and</p>	<p>External</p>

					Foundations of the relevant ISDs	their Educational Foundations	
	c. Increasing the Independent School District's awareness of the importance of academic achievement with regard to the economic development of the community through presentations to the ISD Board of Directors.		✓		Ongoing 2 way engagement between the Chambers of Commerce and the ISDs	Recommend looking at further ways of engaging/ supporting the McDade ISD, in addition to ongoing engagement with the Smithville, Elgin and Bastrop ISDs.	External/ Economic Development and Tourism/ Educational Foundations/ Chambers of Commerce
4. Encourage higher learning opportunities	a. Supporting the efforts to establish an Austin Community College campus in Bastrop County;	✓			ACC Elgin Campus opened in 2013. ACC		External/ Tourism and Economic Development

in Bastrop County by:					outreach programs with Bastrop, Smithville and Elgin ISDs.		
	b. Soliciting the establishment of public and private vocational and technical schools within the County.			✓	There are currently no vocational or technical schools within the County		External/ Tourism and Economic Development

5. Theme- Public Safety and Emergency Services

Overall Goal

Ensure that the public safety needs of the community are met through the deployment of nationally recognized standards of care or operation while maintaining fiscal accountability and responsibility.

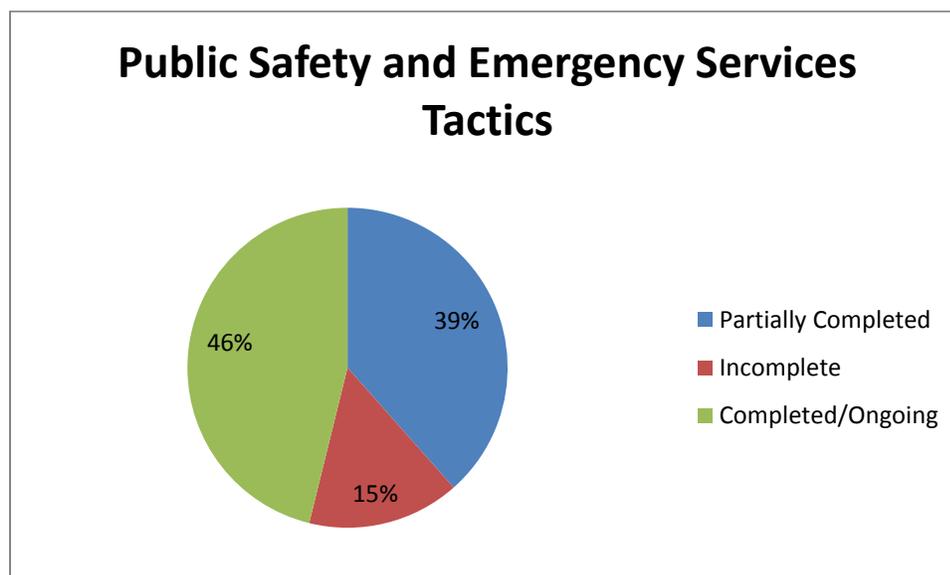
Objectives

1. Address citizens' public safety issues
2. Identify the resources which will empower public safety entities within the county to carry out their mission
3. Develop alliances to enhance the community's quality of life
4. Recruit and retain public safety personnel
5. Identify standards of care or operation for each public safety discipline.

Overview

13 tactics were identified in the *Public Safety and Emergency Services* section. The chapter identifies public safety as "the most fundamental role of County government". Although the plan commends the excellent service of law enforcement given their limited resources, it does put forward a number of measures to counter the ongoing struggle to fill deputy positions.

The chapter also refers to the need to improve emergency medical services for rural residents which at the time were contracted through Guardian EMS, however since 2014 this has been contracted through Acadian dispatch service.



Key Achievements

Development of Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Department

Many of the tactics set out in Objective 2 (*identify the resources which will empower public safety entities within the county to carry out their mission*) have been incorporated into the wider functions of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) which, at the time the plan was being drafted back in 2006 and 2007, was yet to fully develop. OEM takes responsibility for the planning and capacity building of the County to respond to disasters and emergencies, and as part of this they are required to identify existing capacity in addition to future needs.

Technology and Engagement with the Local Community

Tactic 1(a) focuses on *“identifying specific citizens’ concerns”*, and part (c) advocates *“Improving efficiency and effectiveness through the enhanced use of technology”* and the information provided by the local community can be an invaluable resource not just as a way of establishing public opinions, but also operationally. The Sheriff’s Office regular Town Hall meetings to communicate directly with residents about current issues, however technological advances over the past ten years have allowed for a more immediate level of community engagement, and both the County Sheriff’s Office and OEM use Facebook to communicate with members of the public.

However, there are limitations to the Facebook platform due to a lack of accountability of users, and the information provided from the community can lack reliability. The Sheriff’s Office also uses the Next Door platform – a community based social networking site which allows neighbors to communicate with each other about community issues including security concerns. OEM is continuing to work with other organizations to identify other more robust platforms which could be exploited in the future.

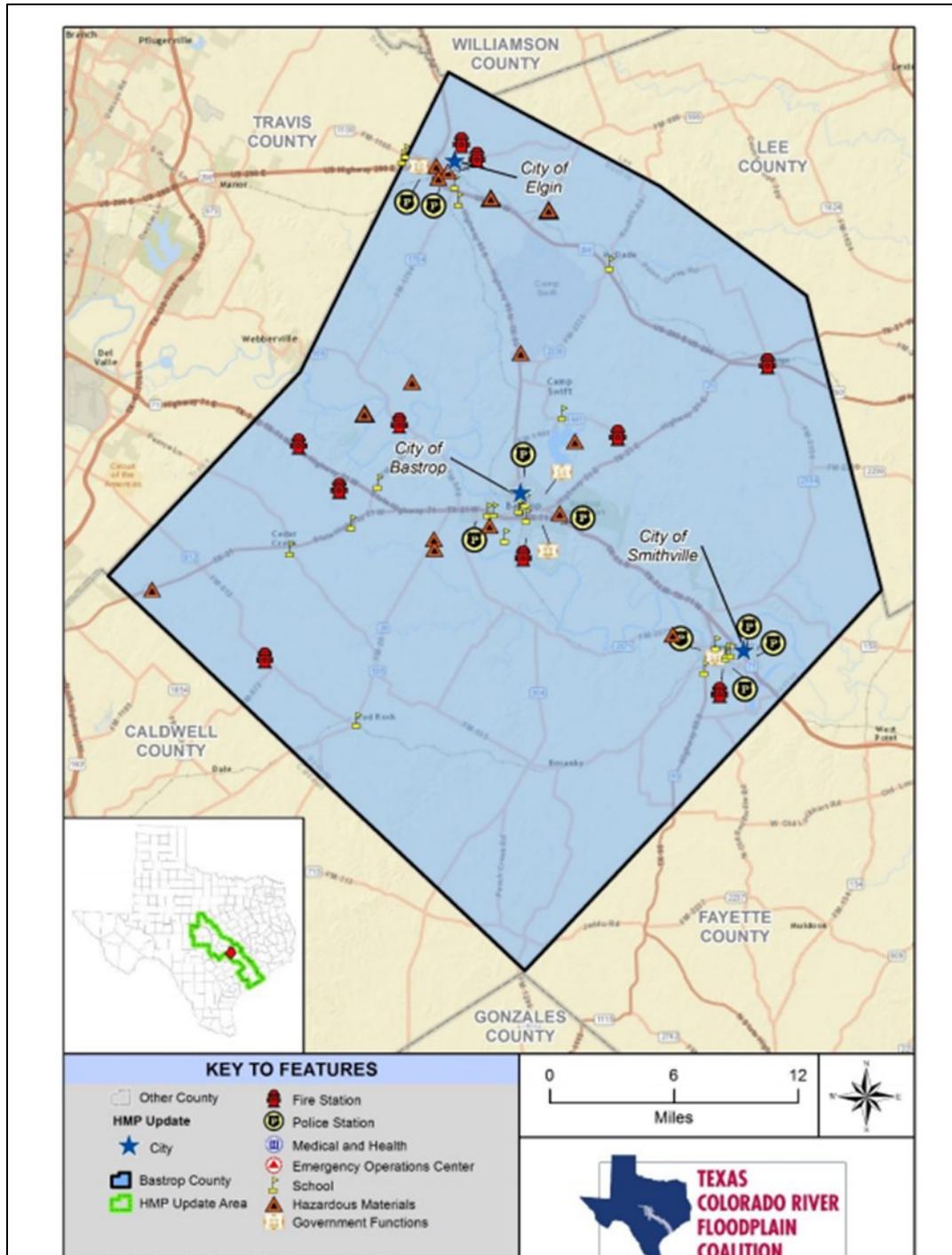


Figure 12 - extract from 2015 Bastrop County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifying Critical infrastructure in the County (Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition)

Areas for Further Consideration

Objective 4 concerns the recruitment and retention of qualified public safety personnel. Figures obtained from the County Human Resources Department the turnover rate for the remains higher than the County overall. This is not an issue specific to Bastrop County - Departments of Public Safety throughout the country struggle with turnover due to the stressful nature of the job, however the County should continue to look into ways to attract and retain qualified professionals.

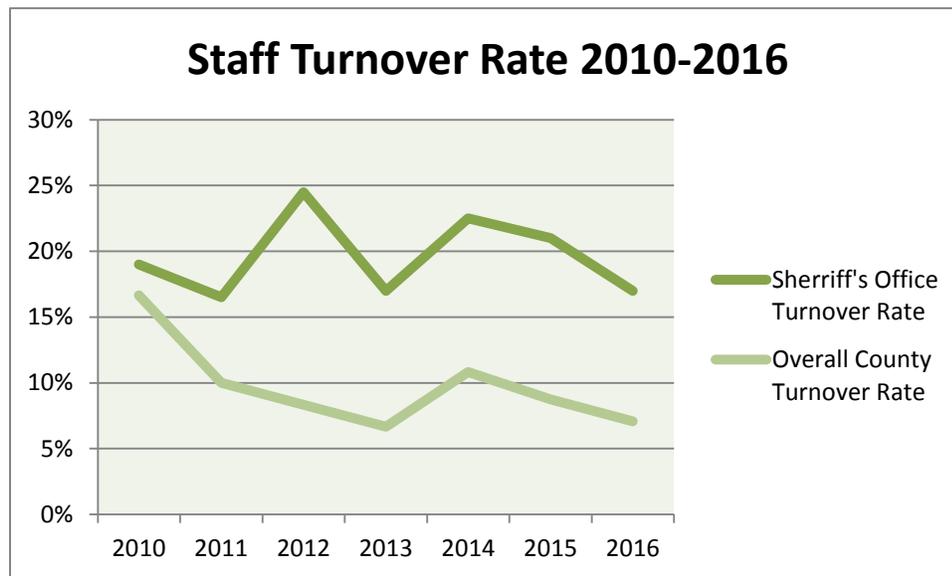


Figure 13 - Staff turnover rate comparison 2010-2016 (data received from BC Human Resources)

Objective 5 suggests that the County “*identify standards of care or operation for each public safety discipline*” – this is not really elaborated upon further in the main document, however it is understand that no movement has been made to apply specific standards to the different public safety disciplines.

Objective	Tactic	Status			Comments	Further action required?	Responsible department
		Completed/ Ongoing	Partially completed	Incomplete			
1. To address citizens' public safety issues	a. Identifying specific citizens' concerns	✓			Town hall meeting held on a regular basis to identify concerns. Both the Sherriff's Office and OEM have active Facebook pages which provide for ongoing communication with citizens.	Maintain ongoing communication channels	Sheriff's Office/ Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
	b. Developing action plans to guide elected officials.		✓		Sheriff's office – no action plan as such, although each incoming Sheriff sets out a 100 day plan – implemented and completed for this year.		Sheriff's Office/ (OEM)

					OEM - A Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2015.		
2. To identify the resources which will empower public safety entities within the county to carry out their mission	a. Identifying existing resources within law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services;	✓			The Office of Emergency Management carries out the functions of long range public safety planning, and items 2 (a) and (b) arguably fall into its remit.		OEM
	b. Determining future needs based upon geographically-based projected growth						
	c. Improving efficiency and effectiveness through the enhanced use of technology	✓			Use of Social Media by both the sheriff's Office and OEM/ Public Safety.	Ensure that the latest technological advancements are being taken advantage of.	

	<p>d. Evaluating the need and potential for expanding Emergency Service Districts for fire protection throughout the county</p>		✓		<p>ESD 2 created in 2008, subsequently annexed into the area served by the Paige Volunteer Fire Department .The feasibility of further expanding the District was considered, however it was not considered to a practicable option at this stage.</p>	<p>Additional ESDs may become more practicable at a later date as the County increases in density – should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.</p>	
	<p>e. Evaluating the need and feasibility of a county Emergency Medical Service</p>		✓		<p>The feasibility of this was assessed however it was not deemed financially viable. Medical emergency services currently provided</p>	<p>This should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis</p>	<p>OEM</p>

					through agreement with Acadian.		
3. To develop alliances to enhance the community's quality of life	a. Identifying existing programs or partnerships that effectively and efficiently provide public safety services	✓			Numerous citizen led programs OEM - Bastrop County Long Term Recovery Team (BCLRT); Neighborhood Watch Groups		Sheriff's Office/ (OEM)
	b. Developing ways of integrating these into the county's services	✓			Bastrop County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provides willing volunteers with disaster response skills training ;		Sheriff's Office/ (OEM)

4. To recruit and retain qualified public safety personnel	a. Developing incentives to attract and retain qualified professionals;		✓		This has varied over the years and due to the wording of the tactics is difficult to quantify. The CS) salary scale was last revised in 10/01/2014 and the “step incentive” program is no longer offered.	Review compensation package where feasible on a regular basis.	Sheriff’s Office
	b. Offering a competitive compensation package		✓				Sheriff’s Office
	c. Enhancing training and career development tracks	✓			Training Division offers training internally in addition to courses offered by CAPCOG.		Sheriff’s Office
	d. Maintaining challenging and rewarding opportunities allowing individuals to develop to their full potential.						

<p>5. To identify standards of care or operation for each public safety discipline.</p>	<p>(identify standards of care or operation for each public safety discipline) -</p>			<p>✓</p>	<p>Understood that these have not been established.</p>		<p>Sheriff's Office/OEM</p>
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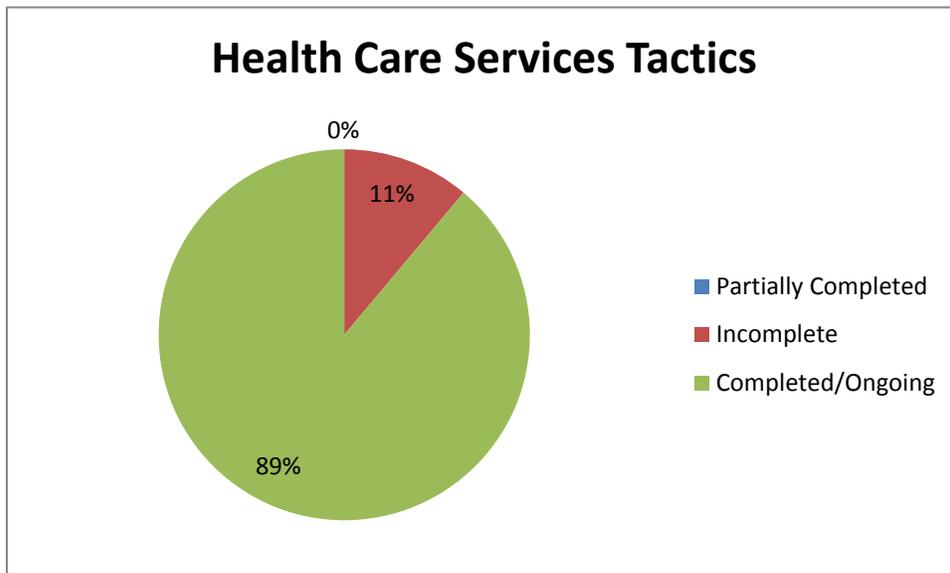
6. Theme- Health Care Services

Overall Goal

Expanded primary health care and mental health services for low income, elderly, and mobility impaired residents.

Key Objectives

- 1. To provide primary health care services for uninsured and under insured residents.**
- 2. To expand the availability of mental health, dental, and eye care in the county.**
- 3. To determine the overall health service needs of county residents**



Overview

9 distinct tactics were identified in the *Health Care Services* section, which focuses on the provision of health care services to the County's Low Income, Elderly and Mobility Impaired Residents. In addition to the support and development of Mobile Health Clinics, Telemedicine and Community Clinics for Low Income County members, the plan also recommended that the County implement a survey to determine health care needs, The plan also refers to the possibility of establishing a Health Services District (HSD) with taxation powers via a public referendum, although this is not set out as a specific tactic and so has not been reviewed.

Key Achievements

New Healthcare facilities Available to Low income Clients

Objectives 1 and 2 of the *Health Care Services* section discuss the provision of primary care to under-insured providers as well as the recruitment of dentists, mental health and opticians who offer services to low income clients. Although, as of as of 2016 Bastrop County was still a Healthcare Professional Shortage Area as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services, there has been an increase in the provision of services available to under and uninsured patients. The Lone Star Circle of Care Bastrop Community Health Center opened in 2015, and offers care to Medicaid patients as well as uninsured patients on a sliding scale fee basis. Primary care services are also offered at the Family Health Center which opened at the Elgin ISD in 2014, and to a lesser extent at the Smithville Community Clinic which offers services free of charge on a part time basis.

Community Health Needs Assessment

Objective 3 suggests that the County implement a medical needs survey to determine health service needs, and subsequently develop tactics to address these needs. A Bastrop County Community Health Needs Assessment was carried out in 2012 by Seton Healthcare in partnership with Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. The [2012 Needs Assessment](#) identified the following issues as priority needs:

1. Access to care – with an uninsured rate nearly three times the national benchmark, and a high population-to-primary care provider ratio;
2. Obesity– in particular the lack of accessible recreation outlets and the need for nutrition education
3. Need for increased community collaboration between organizations and ability to access programs in neighboring areas
4. Behavioral health services – including a gap in suicide preventions.
5. Chronic disease (such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease) – with identified health outcomes focused on chronic disease self-management and education
6. Highway safety and accidents

Seton Healthcare carried out a further assessment of Bastrop County's Community Health Needs as part of its [East Region 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment](#) (which also covers Fayette,

Gonzales and Lee Counties in partnership with St David's Foundation and the Central Texas Medical Center). The report broadly re-iterates the priorities identified in the 2012 study, however it highlights the concept of "Social Determinants of Health" which include affordable transportation, affordable housing, poverty and social services.

The priorities set up in the above Needs Assessments are used by the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension in identifying key projects throughout the County, which include:

- Step Up and Scale Down – a 12 week weight management program
- Head Start – an educational outreach program offering basic training on how to cook healthy food
- Do Well, Be Well – a Type 2 Diabetes management program undertaken in partnership with the Wesley Nurses

The County is now also working in partnership with Seton to provide access to brand medication for Indigent Healthcare clients through the Seton Patient Prescription Assistance Program.

Although tackling healthcare services is an ongoing task the Needs Assessments have provided a framework for prioritizing County resources and programs.

Areas for Further Consideration

Access to Care

As stated above, tackling healthcare provision and access is an ongoing task, and the ratio of primary and specialized healthcare providers to population the County remains low. It should also be noted that the provision of dentists and optometrists accessible to uninsured and underinsured patients as identified in tactic 2 (b) and (c) has not been met in in Smithville and Elgin, requiring patients to travel into Bastrop for these services.

CARTS provides free medical transportation for eligible persons to medical facilities as part of the Texas Health and Human Services Transportation Program. This service is open only to those on Medicaid or within the Children with Special Health Care Needs program.

Determine Feasibility of Mobile Primary Care Clinics

With 75% of the Bastrop County population living outside of the incorporated municipalities of Elgin, Smithville and Bastrop, the provision of Mobile Primary Care Clinics in partnership with a private healthcare provider may be a possible option for increasing access to primary healthcare services for those who are unable to travel long distances. It is understood that Seton currently operates a youth “care-a-van” program in Caldwell County – a mobile clinic for children with charges based on a sliding scale fee. There is the potential to replicate this within Bastrop County, although it would not address the need of uninsured adults in the rural areas of the County.

Objective	Tactic	Status			Comments	Further action required?	Relevant department
		Completed	Partially completed	Incomplete			
1. To provide primary health care services for uninsured and under insured residents	a. Determining the feasibility of developing clinics similar to the Lincoln Clinic in other areas of the county	✓			Smithville Community Clinic- Opened in July 2013 and offers free consultations on the weekend. Lincoln Clinic is no longer in operation.	Investigate the feasibility of similar clinics in Bastrop and Elgin.	Indigent Healthcare/ relevant Municipalities
	b. Determining the feasibility of developing public primary care clinics in Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville;	✓			9/2/2014--Bastrop Community Health & Dental Center opened in September 2014 Family Health Center at Elgin ISD also opened in Sep 2014; 10/1/2016-Lone Star		Indigent Healthcare/ relevant municipalities

					Circle of Care (Bastrop); sliding scale fees; Smithville Community Clinic (free)		
	c. Determining the feasibility of operating mobile primary care clinics throughout the county			✓	It is understood that this has not been done by the County – however Seton are currently considering the possibility of replicating their “Care-avan” program in Hays County to work with the local schools	Recommend looking into this further in order to address healthcare access needs within the unincorporated areas of the County.	Indigent Healthcare/ relevant municipalities

	d. Determining the potential for partnerships with county hospitals	✓			Partnerships have been established with both St Davids (provision of an Emergency Center in Bastrop) and Seton Smithville Hospital and St. David's Hospital in Bastrop;		Indigent Healthcare/ relevant municipalities
2. To expand the availability of mental health, dental, and eye care in the county	a. Actively recruiting a qualified psychiatrist to serve the county on either a full time or part time basis	✓			Psychiatrist services available through Bastrop Community Health & Dental Center (through Bluebonnet) & Lone Star Circle of Care (Bastrop); also counseling offered through Smithville Community Clinic		Indigent Healthcare/ relevant municipalities

	<p>b. Recruiting dentists into the county who will provide affordable payment plans or other alternative payment devices for under and uninsured residents</p>	✓			<p>Signature Smiles is currently the provider accepting IHCP patients at Medicaid rates (as of February 2009) - 9/1/2014 & 10/1/2016</p>	<p>Service not currently available in Elgin or Smithville</p>	
	<p>c. Recruiting optometrists into the county who will provide affordable payment plans or other alternative payment devices for under and uninsured residents.</p>	✓			<p>Texan Eye care is currently the provider accepting IHCP patients at medicaid rates</p>	<p>Service not currently available in Elgin or Smithville</p>	<p>Economic Development/ Indigent Healthcare</p>

3. To determine the overall health service needs of county residents	a. Implementing a medical services needs survey, including: i. Physician recruitment needs by specialty; ii. Adjunct health care professional needs; iii. Specialized treatment needs; and iv. Disease/diagnosis-specific education.	✓			A Community Needs Assessment was carried out in 2012 by Seton Healthcare in partnership with Bastrop and Caldwell Counties, and Seton included Bastrop in their Needs Assessment in 2016. The 2012 study has	Private partnership
	b. Developing specific tactics to address the identified needs.	✓			been used to develop priorities for the Agri-life Extension healthcare programs.	

7. Next Steps

Ten years after its adoption, the Opportunity Bastrop County document is the only all-encompassing planning document that exists for the County as a whole.

Given the extensive involvement of the local community back when this plan was drafted ten years ago, this review will be subject to a 4 week public comment period, during which the plan will be displayed on the Long Range Planning website and members of the local community may offer their input on the extent to which these goals have been achieved.

Following this, the comments will be collated and presented to the Court, along with any subsequent amendments to the review.

Further action

Based on the above review there are a number of actions/ studies which have yet to be undertaken , and should be prioritized.

- *County Medical Service Feasibility Study*
- *Implement Bastrop County Transit Study in discussion with CARTS, and assist in the promotion of existing services.*
- *County Alternative Transportation Plan(Pedestrian and Bike) - (wait until the CAMPO Alternative Transportation Plan has been completed and use this as a baseline)*
- *Establish Parks Policy and implement Parks and Open Space Masterplan*
- *Discuss the feasibility of allocating a portion of Road and Bridge funds to specific ‘priority projects’ in the CIP.*

Possible Update of the 2007 Plan

The Opportunity Bastrop County Strategic Plan continues to provide a broad framework for the County’s growth and development, and an update to the plan would doubtless be a valuable consultation and engagement exercise, particularly for the 75% of the County’s population who do not reside within an incorporated City. The document could also be used as a way of identifying constraints and opportunities in those areas who do not fall within the jurisdiction of the relevant

Economic Development Corporations and Chambers of Commerce, and used as a reference document for developers (particularly residential) and nonprofits who may be considering the area.

It is also important to ensure that Opportunity Bastrop County aligns with other plans, policies and strategies which impact the County. These include wider regional commitments (such as the Clean Air Coalition), County wide plans (such as the 2016 Transportation Plan and the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan) and the land use plans and policies of the incorporated cities within the County including Elgin, Bastrop and Smithville.

If a full update of the plan were to be undertaken, it should be drafted in a manner similar to the 2007 Plan, in that it would be led by a Citizen's Steering Committee, facilitated by the County Planner. As per the original document, the purpose of the plan should be Community and Economic Development as opposed to regulatory and development control. The plan would be sub-divided into the following 6 sections (the original 5 plus housing), each with their own sub-committee with people knowledgeable about their particular area.

- Environmental Growth and Management
- Transportation Enhancement
- Economic Development and Educational Opportunities
- Public Safety and Emergency Services
- Health Care Services
- Housing

In addition it is recommended that there be a specific focus on consultation with the unincorporated communities - particularly the larger unincorporated communities of McDade, Paige, Cedar Creek, Red Rock and Circle D/ Camp Swift as well as outreach to the Hispanic Community including Spanish Language engagement.

Based on discussions with the consultant who was involved in the preparation of the original plan, this is estimated to cost approximately \$38,000 (not including Spanish language services).

To date, no state or federal funding pots specific to strategic planning in Bastrop County have been identified.